

Ladies and gentlemen, global challenges can only be met by comprehensive international cooperation. This is also true for the third great task we need to stand up to in the 21st century, the wall that seemingly separates the present from the future. This wall bars from view the needs of future generations. It prevents us from doing what is urgently necessary to preserve the basis of our very life and our climate. We can already see now where this wasteful attitude towards our future leads: icebergs are melting in the Arctic; in Africa, people become refugees because their environment has been destroyed; the global sea level is rising.

I am delighted to note that President Obama and you, in your daily work, consider the protection of our climate to be a very important task. We all know that we have no time to lose. We need an agreement at the climate conference in Copenhagen in December. We need an agreement on one objective: global warming must not exceed 2 degrees Celsius. To achieve this, we need the readiness of all countries to exact internationally binding obligations. We cannot afford missing the objectives in climate protection that science tells us have to be met. This would not only be irresponsible from an environmental point of view, it would also be technologically shortsighted, for the development of new technologies in the field of energy offers great opportunities for growth and innovative jobs.

No doubt about it, in December the world will look to us, to the Europeans and to the Americans. And it is true, there can be no agreement without China and India. But I am convinced once we, in Europe and America, show ourselves ready to adopt binding agreements, that we will also be able to persuade China and India to join in. Then in Copenhagen, we shall be able to overcome this wall separating the present and the future in the interest of our children and grandchildren and in the interest of sustainable development all over the world.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am convinced that just as we found the strength in the 20th century to bring about the fall of the wall made of concrete and barbed wire, we shall now show that necessary strength to overcome the walls of the 21st century, walls in our minds, walls of shortsighted self-interest, walls between the present and the future.

Ladies and gentlemen, my confidence is nurtured and comes from a very important source, a very special sound, the sound of the Liberty Bell in Schöneberg Town Hall in Berlin. Since 1950, the bell, cast after the original American Liberty Bell, hangs there in the belfry. A gift from American citizens, it is a symbol of the promise of freedom, a promise that has been fulfilled. On the 3rd of October, 1990, the Liberty Bell rang again, signaling the unification of Germany, the greatest moment of joy for the German people.

On the 13th of September, 2001, it tolled out again, 2 days after 9/11, the greatest day of mourning for the American people.

(Spoken in English:)

The freedom bell in Berlin is, like the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia, a symbol which reminds us that freedom does not come about by itself. It must be struggled for and then defended anew every day of our lives. In this endeavor, Germany and Europe will also in the future remain strong and dependable partners for America. That, I promise you. Thank you very much.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

At 11 o'clock and 20 minutes a.m., Her Excellency Dr. Angela Merkel, Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, accompanied by the committee of escort, retired from the Hall of the House of Representatives.

The Majority Floor Services Chief escorted the invited guests from the Chamber in the following order:

The Members of the President's Cabinet;

The Dean of the Diplomatic Corps.

JOINT MEETING DISSOLVED

The SPEAKER. The purpose of the joint meeting having been completed, the Chair declares the joint meeting of the two Houses now dissolved.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 23 minutes a.m.), the joint meeting of the two Houses was dissolved.

The Members of the Senate retired to their Chamber.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The House will continue in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PASTOR of Arizona) at noon.

PRINTING OF PROCEEDINGS HAD DURING RECESS

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the proceedings held during the recess be printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Minnesota?

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 3949, by the yeas and nays;
H. Res. 398, by the yeas and nays;
H. Res. 866, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

VETERANS' SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE AND SERVICEMEMBERS PROTECTION ACT OF 2009

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3949, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. WALZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3949, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 382, nays 2, not voting 48, as follows:

[Roll No. 835]

YEAS—382

Aderholt	Carter	Franks (AZ)
Adler (NJ)	Cassidy	Frelinghuysen
Akin	Castle	Fudge
Alexander	Castor (FL)	Galleghy
Altmire	Chaffetz	Garrett (NJ)
Arcuri	Chandler	Giffords
Austria	Childers	Gingrey (GA)
Baca	Chu	Gohmert
Bachmann	Clarke	Gonzalez
Bachus	Cleaver	Goodlatte
Baird	Clyburn	Graves
Baldwin	Coble	Grayson
Barrow	Coffman (CO)	Green, Al
Bartlett	Cohen	Green, Gene
Barton (TX)	Conaway	Griffith
Bean	Connolly (VA)	Grijalva
Becerra	Cooper	Guthrie
Berkley	Costa	Hall (TX)
Berman	Costello	Halvorson
Berry	Courtney	Hare
Biggert	Crowley	Harman
Blibray	Cuellar	Harper
Billirakis	Culberson	Hastings (FL)
Bishop (GA)	Cummings	Hastings (WA)
Bishop (NY)	Dahlkemper	Heinrich
Bishop (UT)	Davis (CA)	Heller
Blackburn	Davis (IL)	Hensarling
Blumenauer	Davis (KY)	Herger
Blunt	DeFazio	Herseth Sandlin
Boccieri	DeGette	Higgins
Boehner	Delahunt	Hill
Bonner	DeLauro	Himes
Bono Mack	Dent	Hinojosa
Boozman	Diaz-Balart, L.	Hirono
Boren	Diaz-Balart, M.	Hodes
Boswell	Dicks	Holden
Boucher	Dingell	Honda
Boustany	Doggett	Hoyer
Boyd	Donnelly (IN)	Hunter
Brady (TX)	Doyle	Inglis
Braley (IA)	Dreier	Inslee
Bright	Driehaus	Israel
Brown (GA)	Duncan	Issa
Brown (SC)	Edwards (MD)	Jackson (IL)
Brown-Waite,	Edwards (TX)	Jackson-Lee
Ginny	Ehlers	(TX)
Buchanan	Ellison	Jenkins
Burgess	Ellsworth	Johnson (GA)
Burton (IN)	Emerson	Johnson, E. B.
Butterfield	Engel	Johnson, Sam
Buyer	Eshoo	Jones
Calvert	Etheridge	Jordan (OH)
Camp	Fallin	Kagen
Campbell	Farr	Kanjorski
Cantor	Filner	Kaptur
Cao	Fleming	Kennedy
Capito	Forbes	Kildee
Capps	Fortenberry	Kilpatrick (MI)
Cardoza	Foster	Kilroy
Carnahan	Fox	Kind
Carson (IN)	Frank (MA)	King (IA)